

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SCS-03 EB-07 SAM-01 PPT-01 SCA-01 OC-05

CCO-00 /092 W

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R 031656Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4496

AMEMBASSY MADRID

INFO AMCONSUL BARCELONA

AMCONSUL BILBOA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL SEVILLE

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CASC, PINT, PO, SP

SUBJ: SPAIN IMPEDES CROSSINGS AT PORTUGUESE FRONTIER

REF: LISBON 5802 (NOTAL)

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, SPANISH AUTHORITIES HAVE CLOSED TWO SOUTHERNMOST BORDER CROSSINGS WITH PORTUGAL AT VILA REAL DE SANTO SANTONIO AND VILA VERDE DE FICALHO. ACTION REPORTEDLY IN RETALIATION FOR DISPLAY AT THOSE POINTS OF LARGE "FRANCE ASSASSIN" SIGNS.

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2. TRAFFIC THROUGH REMAINING BORDER CROSSINGS HAS BEEN SUBJECT

TO VARYING RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY SPANISH BORDER GUARDS, REPORTEDLY ON ORDERS FROM MADRID. RESTRICTIONS ONLY AFFECT TRAFFIC TO PORTUGAL FROM SPAIN; REVERSE TRAFFIC FLOWING NORMALLY.

3. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL SAID THAT ON OCTOBER 2, PORTUGAL-BOUND COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC WAS RESTRICTED TO ONE TRUCK EVERY 5 TO 10 MINUTES, PRIVATE CARS ONE EVERY 30 MINUTES. ACCORDING TO SOURCE AT LISBON PORTUGUESE BORDER GUARD HEADQUARTERS, PACE TODAY IS ONE VEHICLE (PRIVATE OR COMMERCIAL) EVERY 10 MINUTES. VEHICLES BEING THOROUGHLY SEARCHED, ALL DETAILS RE VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS CAREFULLY REGISTERED, AND NO "SALEABLE" GOODS BEING ALLOWED TO ENTER PORTUGAL.

4. ALTHOUGH THESE UNUSUAL CHECKS BEING MADE ONLY BY SPANISH, SPANISH BORDERGUARDS REPORTEDLY CLAIM THAT ACTIONS ARE DESIGNED TO PREVENT "SUBVERSIVE" ELEMENTS FROM ENTERING PORTUGAL AND ARE BEING TAKEN AT REQUEST OF PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL SAID DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS TO SPANISH GOVERNMENT THUS FAR WITHOUT RESULTS.

5. COMMENT: SPANISH RESTRICTIONS APPEAR CLEAR WARNING TO PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES OF ECONOMIC SCREWS WHICH SPANISH CAN APPLY IF LOCAL ANTI-FRANCO ELEMENTS NOT CONTROLLED. IN 1974, 22 PERCENT OF EXPORTS (BY VALUE) WAS CARRIED BY TRUCK OR RAIL THROUGH SPAIN. TOURIST TRAFFIC COULD ALSO BE SEVERELY AFFECTED BY TIGHTENED BORDERS.

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